Defence Production by Government vis-a-vis Private Units

† 2007. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence establishments would be able to compete with private sector after their participation in defence production;

(b) the details of the efforts being made by Government to protect the defence establishments;

(c) how the quality of defence production would be regulated after private participation; and

(d) the safeguards against the practice of Commission adopted by private sector for selling their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) A formidable public sector defence industry consisting of 39 Ordnance Factories and 8 Public Sector Undertakings, with a combined turn-over of nearly Rs. 14000 crores exists in India and would remain as the Core Sector. It is expected to grow further alongwith the private sector in healthy competition.

(c) The products manufactured by the private sector would be subjected to the same quality checks as applicable to the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Units.

(d) Various safeguards are already in place to ensure that Commissions are not paid in the sale of Defence products.

Danger of cities of Punjab due to Ammunition Depots

2008. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Punjab cities sit on a tinder box" which appeared in the Hindu dated the 5th June, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lives of thousands living in three cities of Punjab viz. Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Bhathinda could be in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.